

Whitney Drops News And Feature Service

Whitney Communications Corporation has disposed of its interests in news and feature services.

The New York Herald News service, in business since 1931, is closed.

Field Enterprises Inc. has acquired the Whitney share in Publishers Newspaper Syndicate which was established in 1963 with the combination of the Herald Tribune Syndicate, the Chicago Sun-Times Syndicate, and Publishers Syndicate.

The Herald Tribune News Service, which had been furnishing copy to 50 newspapers, was suspended when the Newspaper Guild began its strike April 24 against the World Journal Tribune Inc.

Many of the features from the news service will be sold separately by Publishers Newspapers Syndicate. They include Eugenia Sheppard's Fashion Column and the Evans-Novak Reports.

Harold H. Anderson, president of Publishers Newspaper Syndicate, said it will continue to supply some 77 columns, comics and other features to newspapers. The Chicago Daily News Wire Service, he said, has 86 subscribers.

The announcement made by Walter N. Thayer, president of Whitney Communications, said the news service "will not be continued when the *Herald Tribune* resumes publication as one of the World Journal Tribune's newspapers."

Whitney Communications has a one-third interest in the company which was set up to publish the Herald Tribune in the morning. The *World Journal* in the evening and the *World Journal Tribune* on Sunday. The other partners are the Hearst Corporation and the Scripps-Howard newspapers.

Mediation Continues

"If we can't settle something today, there's nothing more left to talk about in this whole situation."

This was the comment of Matt Meyer, president of the World Journal Tribune Inc., as he entered the bargaining room on Thursday (June 23) morning for a session which was expected to bring agreement with the striking newspaper Guild of New York.

Thomas Murphy, vicepresident of the Guild, close behind

tious, saying: "Talks are now being conducted in a conciliatory and friendly atmosphere. We could settle today, but I'm not making any firm predictions..."

The Guild leader said there were still 10 issues to be discussed. He agreed that all but three of these were minor. "Extra severance pay is my main concern together with a union shop within the new corporation," he said.

It is understood that Murphy was pushing for supplemental severance pay which will total \$600,000.

As E&P went to press the strike against the merged corporation was in its 60th day. Apart from the Guild, three other unions — the mailers, pressmen, and drivers — were still seeking contract agreements.

Elmer Brown, president of the International Typographical Union, entered the talks to advise the mailers' local. He told E&P: "If the Guild withdraws its pickets, the position will be as we've maintained all along, that there's no contract with WJT—therefore, no operation until agreement is reached."

Problems with the pressmen were centered on demands for a six and one half hour shift to be worked Saturday nights on production of the WJT's Sunday newspaper. But WJT is seeking staggered starting times and an eight hour shift as worked at the *New York Times* and the *Daily News*. The dispute with the mailers continues to be over manpower. The publishers and drivers have nearly settled their differences.